

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims regarding the present application. In reading this, text added by the amendment is underlined and text that is deleted is shown in ~~[[double brackets]]~~.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants on a cosmetic brush, the apparatus comprising:
 - a. a cosmetic brush including an elongated handle portion and bristles, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and plastic;
 - b. a crimp integrally formed from contaminant resistant material, wherein the crimp holds the bristles to the handle portion, and wherein the bristles extend longitudinally from the crimp parallel to the length of the handle portion;
 - c. ~~[[at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to receive the handle portion of the cosmetic brush and wherein the at least one endcap has at least one ridge positioned around the circumference of the endcap]]~~
an enclosure including at least one opening, wherein the enclosure is configured to house the cosmetic brush; and
 - d. ~~[[an enclosure including at least one opening, wherein the]]~~ at least one endcap ~~[[is fashioned]]~~ configured to close the at least one opening, the at least one endcap comprising:
 - i. a resilient plug with at least one ridge positioned around the circumference of the plug, wherein a diameter of the at least one ridge is at least partially wider than the at least one opening, such that the resilient plug is compressed upon insertion into the at least one opening;

- ii. a standoff coupled to the resilient plug, the standoff being larger than the resilient plug such that the resilient plug is able to be inserted into the at least one opening while the standoff is not able to be inserted into the at least one opening; and
 - iii. an aperture in the resilient plug, wherein the aperture is configured to receive the handle portion of the cosmetic brush, [[and further]] wherein the resilient plug is configured such that when the handle portion of the cosmetic brush is inserted into the aperture and the [[at least one endcap]] resilient plug is inserted into the at least one opening, the force on the diameter of the at least one ridge forces the aperture in the resilient plug to compress around the handle portion of the cosmetic brush such that the cosmetic brush straightens within the enclosure, thus preventing [[makes contact with the inside of the enclosure to ensure that when the cosmetic brush is entirely within the enclosure the cosmetic brush is not in]] the bristles from making significant contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein in the event the handle is formed of stainless steel, the handle portion of the brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle portion is inserted into the aperture.
4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a set of bristles coupled to the upper handle portion of the brush with a crimp.
5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.
7. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.
8. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one endcap have a substantially cylindrical shape[, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:
 - a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the enclosure; and
 - b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into the filler material]].
- 10-18. (Cancelled).
19. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic brush for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the cosmetic brush comprising:
 - a. a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is formed of stainless steel, wherein the handle portion of the cosmetic brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion;
 - b. a set of bristles coupled to the upper handle portion of the cosmetic brush with a crimp;
 - c. [[at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to

receive the handle portion of the cosmetic brush and wherein the at least one endcap has at least one ridge positioned around the circumference of the endcap]]an enclosure including at least one opening, wherein the enclosure is configured to house the cosmetic brush; and

- d. [[an enclosure including at least one opening, wherein the]] at least one endcap [[is fashioned]] configured to close the at least one opening, the at least one endcap comprising:
- i. a resilient plug with at least one ridge positioned around the circumference of the plug, wherein a diameter of the at least one ridge is at least partially wider than the at least one opening, such that the resilient plug is compressed upon insertion into the at least one opening;
 - ii. a standoff coupled to the resilient plug, the standoff being larger than the resilient plug such that the resilient plug is able to be inserted into the at least one opening while the standoff is not able to be inserted into the at least one opening; and
 - iii. an aperture in the resilient plug, wherein the aperture is configured to receive the handle portion of the cosmetic brush, [[and further]] wherein the resilient plug is configured such that when the lower handle portion of the cosmetic brush is inserted into the aperture and the [[at least one endcap]] resilient plug is inserted into the at least one opening, the force on the diameter of the at least one ridge forces the aperture in the resilient plug to compress around the handle portion of the cosmetic brush such that the cosmetic brush straightens within the enclosure, thus preventing [[makes contact with the inside of the enclosure to ensure that when the cosmetic brush is entirely within the enclosure and the cosmetic brush is not in]] the bristles from making significant contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

20-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

25. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.

26. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.

27. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 wherein the at least one opening and the endcap have a [[round]] substantially cylindrical shape[[, further wherein the endcap includes:

a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the enclosure to remain in place until removed; and

b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned in the filler material]].

28 - 45 (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the apparatus comprising:
- a. cosmetic brush including a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a stainless steel material and the handle portion of the brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion;
 - b. a set of bristles coupled to the upper handle portion of the cosmetic brush;
 - c. at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to receive the lower handle portion of the brush; and
 - d. an enclosure including at least one opening, wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and wherein the at least one opening and the at least one endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:
 - i. a plug with at least one wall configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the at least one wall of the plug is configured with at least one slot, and wherein the at least one wall flexes when inserted into the at least one opening causing the slot to become smaller; and
 - ii. filler material positioned inside the at least one wall such that the aperture can be formed into the filler material; wherein when the lower handle portion of the cosmetic brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening the cosmetic brush does not make contact with an inner surface of the enclosure and the at least one wall compresses the filler material.
47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at an end of the cylinder.

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48. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.
49. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.
50. (Cancelled).